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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Arkhangelsk Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Naval and Air Activity in the Port of Arkhangelsk	DATE DISTR.	14 November 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [] 18 to 20 small naval vessels lay at anchor four to five nautical miles north of the Severnaya Dvina Lightship. [] two small naval vessels lay moored side by side at the naval station at Solombala.

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They were alike and about 200 feet long, with flush decks and pronounced sheer. Each had one gun on the foredeck, a bridge with a mast, one funnel, and two guns on the centerline on the afterdeck. (See Sketch No. 1)

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2. [] five naval vessels were in formation on a northerly course at a position nine nautical miles southwest of the Severnaya Dvina Lightship. (See Sketch No. 2) [] 20 small naval vessels were in column on a northerly course turning northeasterly, west of the lightship. (See Sketch No. 3) There was shooting from some of the vessels and exploding antiaircraft shells could be seen at altitudes of between 2,000 and 4,000 meters. A twin jet plane (see Sketch No. 4) came in toward the formation from the west, flew over it, and turned southward and westward behind the formation. Flying immediately behind this plane was a single-engine jet fighter.

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3. [] there was a submarine three to four nautical miles off Terskiy Orlov (M67-15, E41-20). It was on a northerly course at a speed of about 14 knots. It was about 150-200 feet long, with a conning tower built in three levels. It had two light guns on the forward edge of the tower. There were four or five ports in the tower; two of them were on the side. The tower was open at the top; the heads of persons standing on the bridge could be seen. There were two poles or periscopes. There was a hatch aft of the tower. On the forward edge of the tower, there was a black vertical stripe which seemed to be painted on. The vessel displayed a Soviet Naval ensign.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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The submarine could be heard long before it was visible. The engine droned like a multi-engine plane and, in addition, there was a regular thumping noise. (See Sketch No. 5 and photo)

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4. [redacted] ten naval vessels were in the main channel of the Severnaya Dvina River enroute to the Solombala naval station. The vessels sailed in column with an interval of about 300 meters between vessels. All of them were alike, about 60 meters long with a raked bow, and flush decks. Each had one gun in an open shield on the foredeck, a sloping bridge structure with the forward edge slanting toward the stern, one pole mast at the after edge of the bridge with a two to three meter long vertical antenna atop the mast, a raked funnel with a smoke deflector close abaft the mast, two rectangular structures with anti-aircraft guns abaft the funnel, and one gun in an open shield on the afterdeck. (See Sketch No. 6) The funnel was about the same height as the bridge. [redacted] four vessels of the same class as those described above, sailed up the main channel of the Severnaya Dvina and in to the Solombala naval station. They sailed side by side in pairs. [redacted]
5. [redacted] a jet fighter was observed at a high altitude over the port of Arkhangelsk. It came in from the south, turned to the left, and described a white ring in the sky, which could have been smoke or a condensation trail, but no condensation trail could be seen either when it came in from the south or when it disappeared northward. Immediately thereafter, a twin jet plane flew in over the port area from the northwest at an altitude of 2,000 to 3,000 meters and disappeared toward the southeast. The plane was of the same type as the one observed near the Severnaya Dvina Lightship. Formations of single-engine jet fighters were sighted on several occasions. They came in from the north or northwest, flew over Solombala, and disappeared toward the southeast. Seven or eight single-engine planes were observed on the ground at Kegostrov airfield. They were approximately as depicted in Sketch No. 7. A plane circled daily over the city and its environs. It resembled a DC-3. (See Sketch No. 8) [redacted] two formations of single-engine jet planes with swept-back wings were observed. The first formation had four planes and the second, six. The planes flew at a great altitude on an east-northeasterly course. A Soviet freighter, ANABARA, went up the main channel of the Severnaya Dvina with airplanes on its foredeck. (See Sketch No. 9) [redacted] groups of three, five, and five jet fighters, respectively, were observed over Arkhangelsk. The planes came and went on various courses, performing maneuvers over the city. They looked alike. All had a distinct jet sound, a short nose, sharply swept-back wings, a very thin fuselage between the wings and the empennage, and a swept-back empennage.
6. [redacted] a naval vessel was observed at anchor in a position about seven nautical miles northeast of Svyatoy Nos. Details were not observed but the silhouette was approximately as in Sketch No. 10. The following naval vessels were observed together at the Solombala naval station: Nine torpedo boats (sic), each with one funnel; seven one-funnel minelayers; eight small wooden patrol boats; and three tenders ranging from about 600 to 1,000 DWT. [redacted]
- [redacted] In the port there were two floating docks, each of which could take vessels of about 3,000 DWT, and two floating cranes, one with an estimated lift capacity of 50 tons and the other, about 20 tons. Most of the trucks in the port and the city were old General Motors vehicles.

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7. [] several radio towers and two other structures were observed on Sosnovets Island. One of these stood near the north point of the island and consisted of a rectangular grillwork box with a grillwork diamond on the top (see Sketch No. 11). The other one was located a little south of the center of the island, in from the shore line, and in the vicinity of the easternmost radio tower. It looked to be a concrete block with a concrete sphere on the top (see Sketch No. 12). 25X1
8. [] a submarine with a profile as in Sketch No. 13 was observed near the Severnaya Dvina Lightship. The conning tower was longer and lower than [] before. The forepart of the vessel was about three times the length of the conning tower; the after part of the ship was a little shorter. 25X1
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9. [] at least 30 similar naval vessels were observed at the fleet station at Solombala. They were 120 to 150 feet long, with flush decks, freeboard of about three feet, a raked bow with equipment for minesweeping, and a transom stern. Each had one shielded gun on the foredeck, a low bridge with a funnel at the after edge, a pole mast with a signal yard forward of the funnel, and a low mast with a Decca (sic)-type radar at the forward edge of the bridge, and an antiaircraft gun on the side of the bridge. On the afterdeck, which was longer than the foredeck, there were at least four quadruple-mounted pom-pom-type antiaircraft guns, and, closer to the stern, a gun in an open shield. There were rails on the afterdeck and a crane on each side of the stern. The paint on the vessels was in poor shape. 25X1
10. [] 17 minesweepers, all alike, were observed at the naval station in Solombala. They were about 130 feet long, with a raked bow, a raised forecastle, a break abaft the forward edge of the bridge, a low bridge with a signal mast, one relatively large funnel abaft the bridge, a deckhouse abaft the funnel, a platform with a twin-mount antiaircraft gun on the deckhouse, paravanes on the afterdeck, a crane on the stern, and a transom stern. [] 25X1
[] no radar was observed. (See Sketch No. 14.)
At the same time, two self-propelled floating docks at least 200 feet long were observed at the naval shipyard. They looked as if they could have been built for the type of vessel just described. (See Sketch No. 15.) In an inlet south of the floating dock, a floating crane of unusually large dimensions was observed. The crane was designed as depicted in Sketch No. 16. At the moment of observation, a sealing vessel was suspended from the crane. Almost the entire vessel was clear of the water. The bow barely touched the surface of the water. The hoisting capacity of the crane must have been at least 150 to 200 tons. 25X1
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11. [] the following vessels were in the harbor of Arkhangelsk: 25X1
A medium large naval vessel, possibly a destroyer, with an almost perpendicular bow, a gun mount on the forecastle, a two-deck bridge, break to the maindeck immediately abaft the bridge, a mast with signal yard and antenna on the bridge, a broad raked funnel at the break in the deck, a quadruple torpedo mount abaft the forward funnel, the after funnel identical with the forward one, another quadruple torpedo mount abaft the after funnel, one gun mount on the afterdeck, depth charges along the railing near the stern, a transom stern, and tracks on the afterdeck extending to the stern [] 25X1
[] a medium [] 25X1

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large naval vessel, possibly a destroyer, somewhat smaller and plainly older than the first mentioned, with four narrow funnels in a row; and 20 to 30 small vessels, minesweepers or minelayers.

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32 navy vessels were lying in the harbor of Arkhangelsk, most of them at anchor. After it became dark all the ships were lighted. Two of the ships were bigger than the others; both were about 400 feet long but of different types. One was a flushdecker with a sharp sheer in the bow, a double turret on the foredeck, a bridge with signal mast, two identical funnels with something in between a double turret on the afterdeck, and a cruiser stern. (See Sketch No. 17.) The other large vessel had the same armament as the first, a perpendicular bow, and no sheer in the deck. It seemed older.

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One of the 32 vessels was a submarine. eight combination minelayer-minesweepers came in the river and put to at the marine quay in Port Ekonomiia.

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12. The quay was being extended inward. The new part was about 500 feet long. Poles with skids (sic-fenders, buffers?) had been driven down and the area inside these was being filled with stone from a pile on the old quay. The stone was brought to the quay by railroad. There were three cranes on the quay, two of which were identical. All three took lifts of 3.4 tons, i.e., a cord of pitprops.

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the coal on the quay came from Siberia and not Spitzbergen. Soviet vessels with red funnel insignia often bunkered here. The road from Port Ekonomiia was plank surfaced for about one kilometer from the port gate. From there on it was in frightful condition. The old surface had been completely ruined and the holes had been filled with sawdust. Inside Sawmill 26, some improvement work was being done on the road. The bridge between Solombala and Arkhangelsk was of a pier construction. There were three or four piers with steel plates at the bottom for reinforcement against ice. It had a profile as shown in Sketch No. 18.

13. There were three or four military garrisons in and at Port Ekonomiia, both for ground and sea forces. The largest garrison was located where the poor road began, one kilometer from the port gate. There was a training site for marine troops on the point northwest of Sawmill No. 16/17. There were several barracks, and about 50 to 60 men were engaged in exercises.

14. The inspection commission on arrival consisted of a woman doctor, an officer, four soldiers, and a woman who sealed the radio set. Mustering of the crew was not demanded. The crew, aside from those standing watch on the bridge or on the engines, stayed in their cabins. A woman went into each individual cabin, said "Good Evening"

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and left again without making any inspection. The commission went ashore again after about one and one-half hours, and the ship proceeded to the quay with the pilot as the only Soviet aboard. Police passes and shore passes were given to the crew on the day after arrival. One of the officers lost his shore pass ashore but was allowed to come aboard without it. The ten rubles he was supposed to be fined were apparently not collected. At the inspection on departure, the police almost requested some words of appreciation for having let a man aboard without his shore pass.

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15. One [] ship was painted as it lay alongside the quay. The guards did not demand to see the shore passes of those who worked on the side of the ship but movement in a direction outside the ship's quay location led to a challenge and the duplicate of the shore pass was taken up. []

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[] In several cases, crew members stayed ashore overnight. In one case, one of the crew, who became completely drunk at the club, was brought to the Intourist Hotel by one of the staff at the club. He slept his binge off there and did not come aboard before late the next day. None of these incidents led to any measures of any kind on the part of the police or the port authorities.

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16. There was a certain amount of blackmarketeering. A necktie brought 25 rubles, pullovers 80 to 100 rubles, and a cheap nickel-plated watch and chain 500 rubles. Almost all the stores were located on the main street. Most of them closed at 1800 hours local time. []

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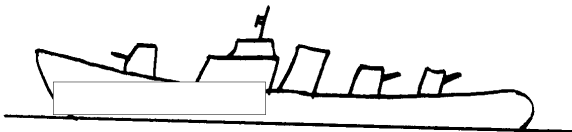
Women's blue cloth dresses	400 rubles
Women's blouses, starting at	50 rubles
Women's coats, starting at	1,300 rubles
Women's shoes, starting at	110 rubles
Men's shoes, starting at	200 rubles
Men's suits, starting at	1,200 rubles
Gouda cheese (or something similar)	27.70 rubles per kilogram
100 grams chocolate	9.00 rubles

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Sketch No. 1:

Small warship moored at Solombala:

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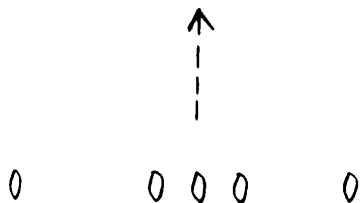
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Sketch No. 2:

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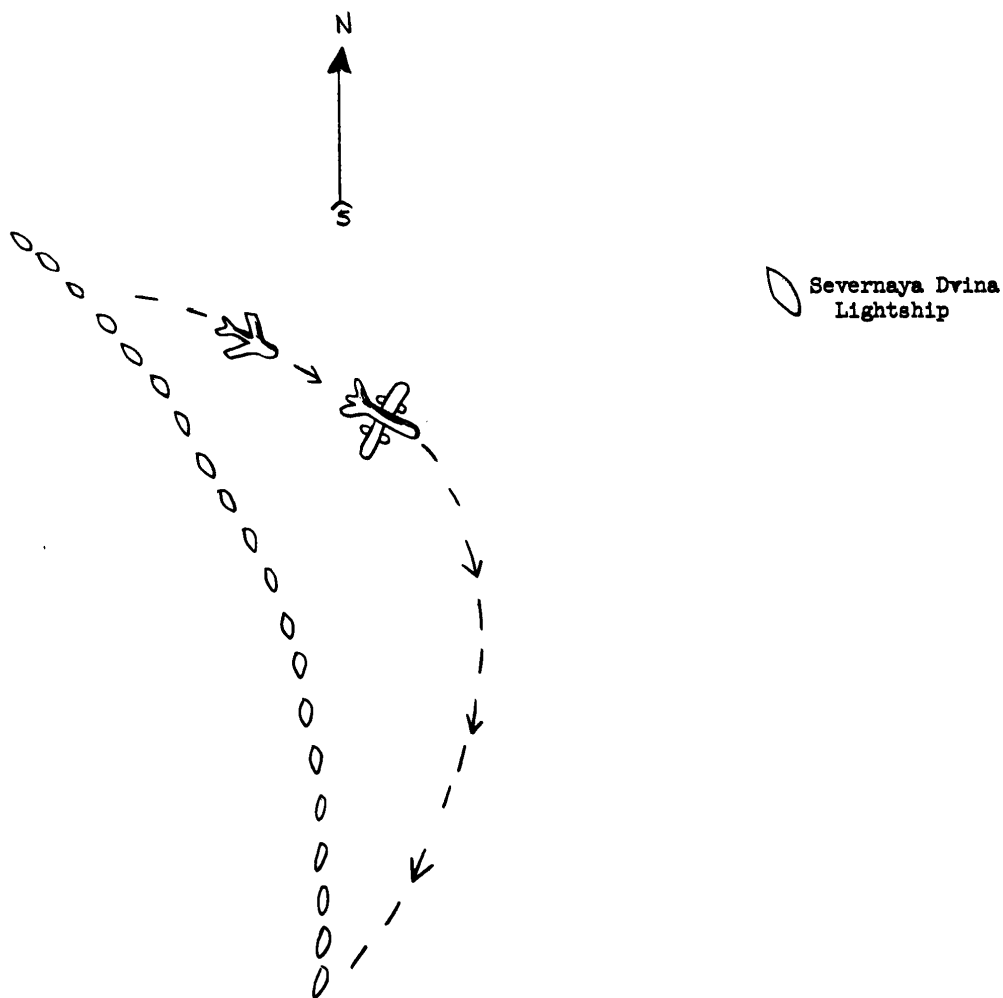
Five naval vessels on a northerly
course near the Severnaya Dvina
Lightship:



Sketch No. 3:

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Naval formation near the Severnaya
Dvina Lightship:



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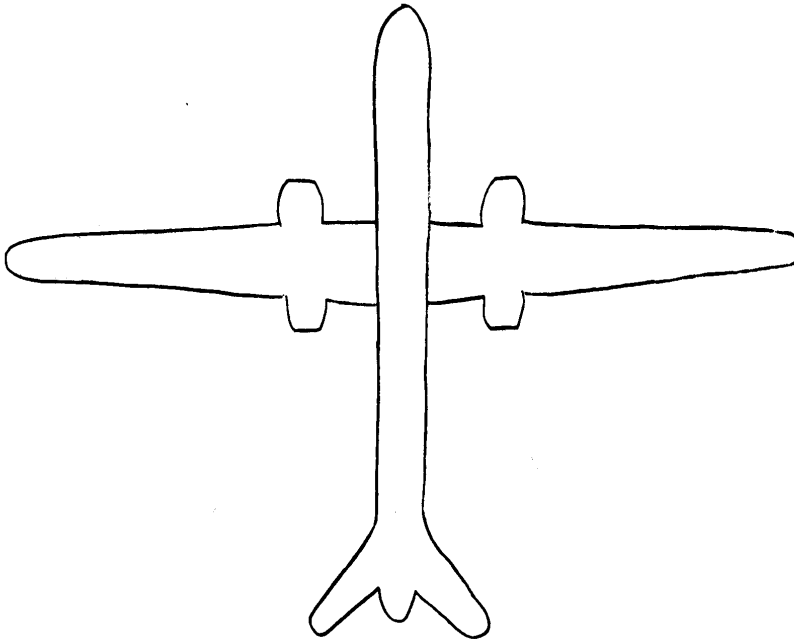
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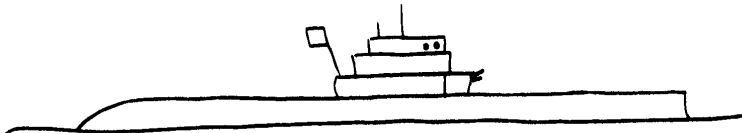
Sketch No. 4:

Twin-jet operating with the naval formation shown in Sketch No. 3:



Sketch No. 5:

Submarine off Terskiy Orlov:



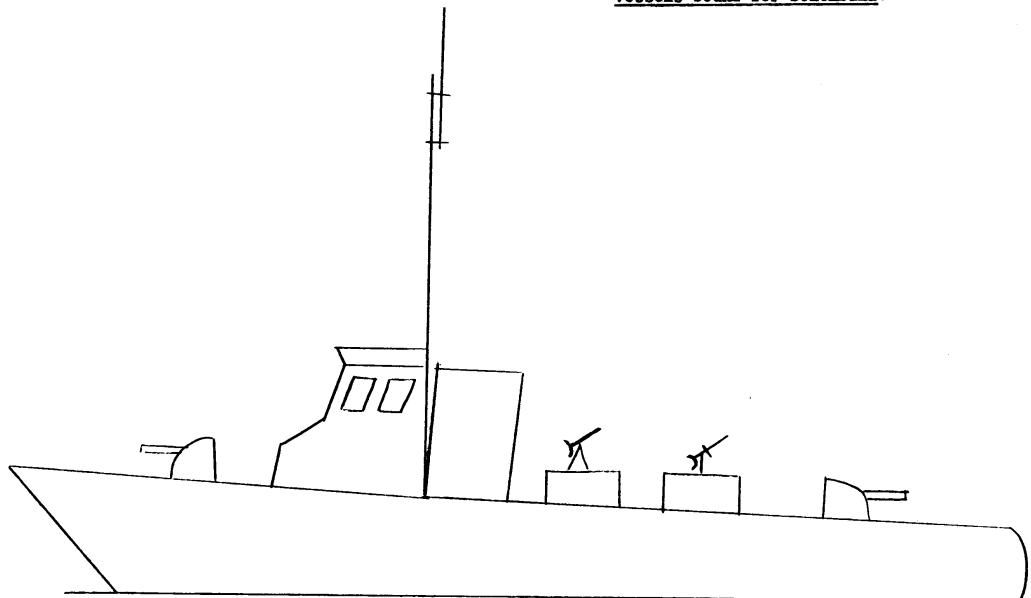
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Sketch No. 6:

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Vessels bound for Solombala:



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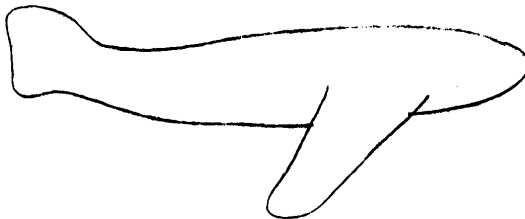
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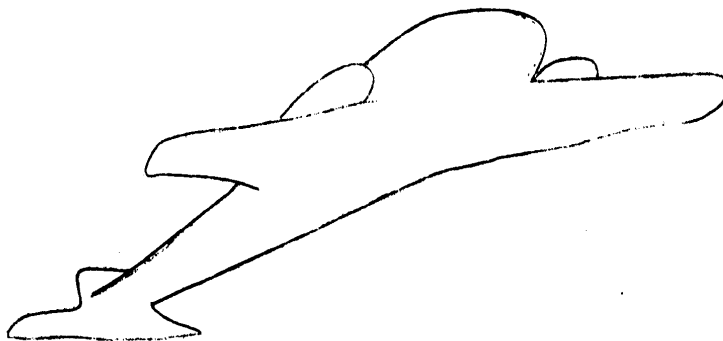
Sketch No. 7:

Aircraft at Kegostrov Airfield:



Sketch No. 8:

Aircraft which daily flew over Arkhangelsk:



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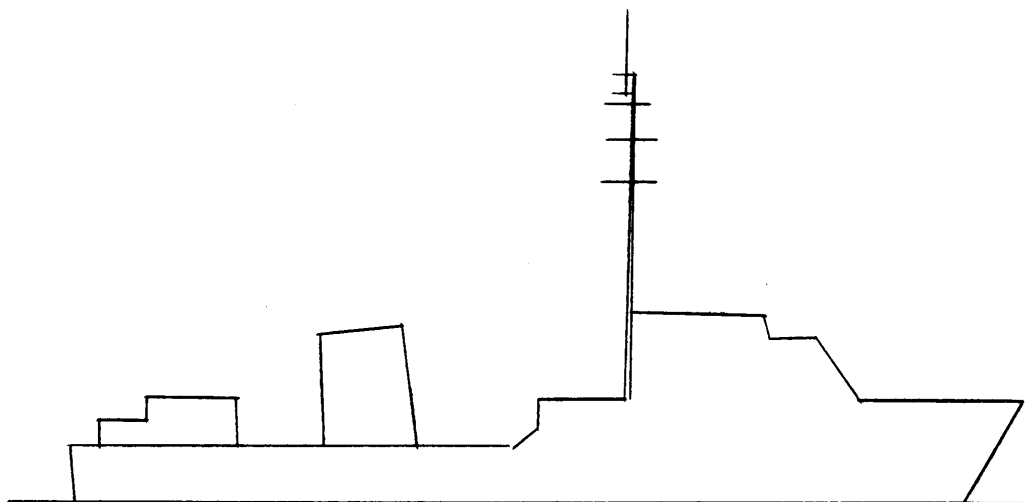
Sketch No. 9:

Foredeck of Soviet freighter carrying aircraft:



Sketch No. 10:

Vessel off Svyatoy Nos:



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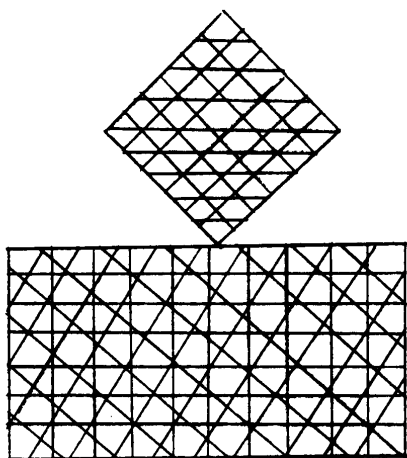
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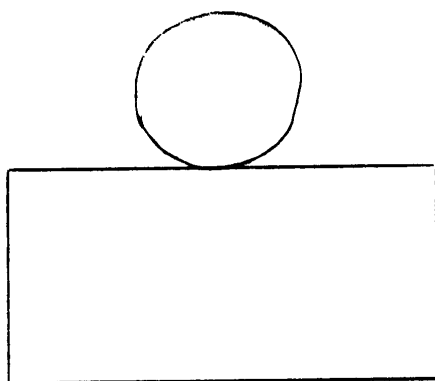
Sketch No. 11:

Structure on Sosnovets Island:



Sketch No. 12:

Structure on Sosnovets Island:



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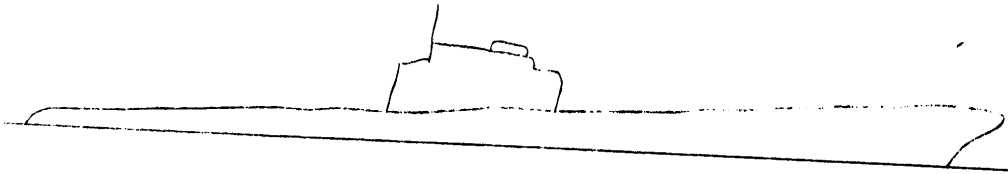
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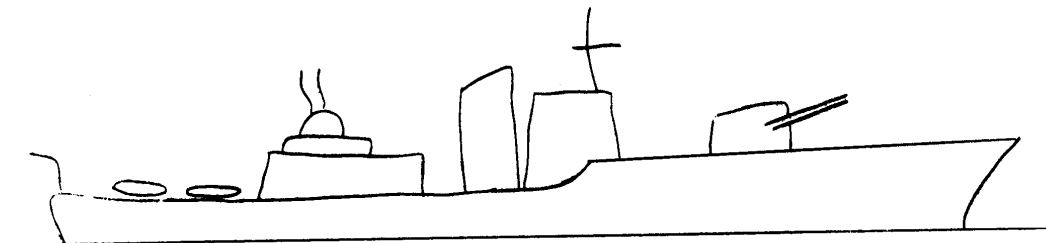
Sketch No. 13:

Submarine near the Severnaya Dvina Lightship:



Sketch No. 14:

Minesweepers at Solombala:



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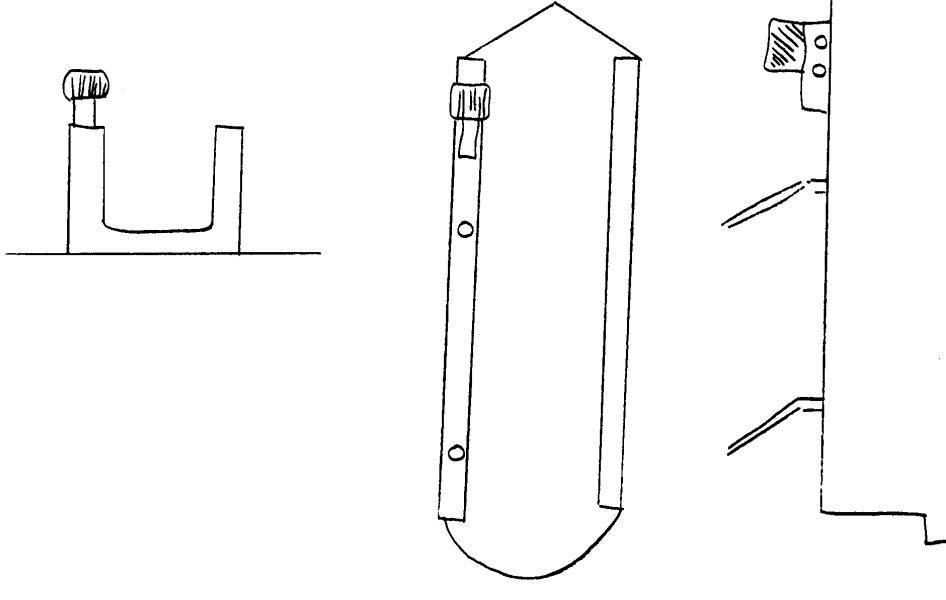
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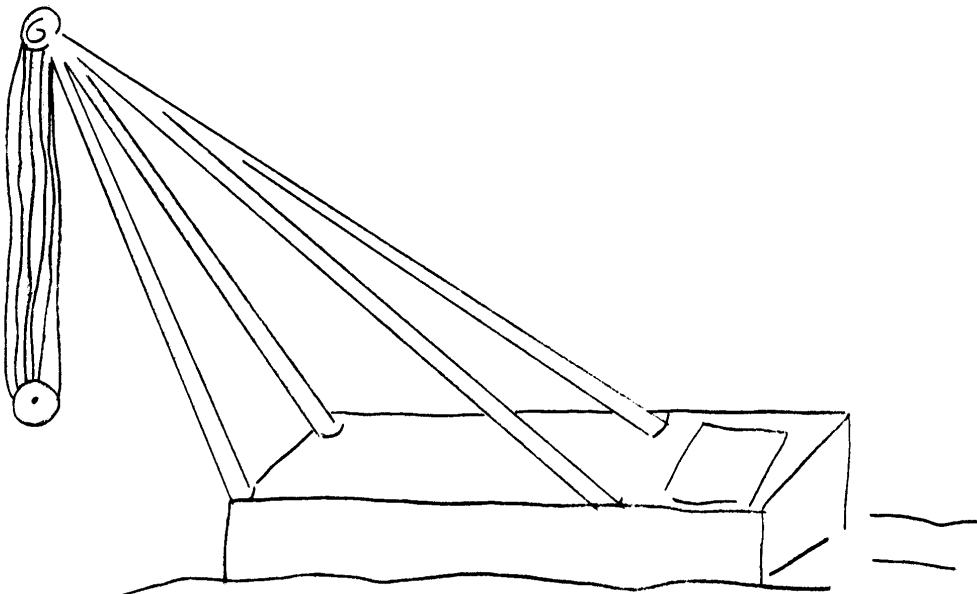
Sketch No. 15:

Floating dry docks at Solombala:



Sketch No. 16:

Floating crane at Solombala:



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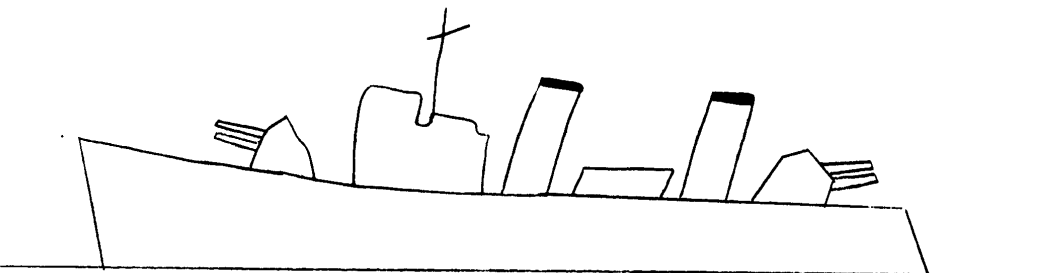
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Sketch No. 17:

Large warship at Arkhangelsk:



Sketch No. 18:

Bridge between Solombala and mainland:



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